

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A medical instrument, comprising:
2 a proximal handle;
3 a sheath extending from the handle and including a lumen, the sheath including a
4 distal end away from the handle; and
5 a retrieval assembly comprising a proximal portion and a distal portion, the
6 proximal portion comprising a first material, the distal portion comprising a second
7 material that is different than the first material, the retrieval assembly and the sheath
8 moveable relative to each other to achieve a collapsed position of the retrieval assembly
9 in which the retrieval assembly is within the lumen of the sheath and another position of
10 the retrieval assembly in which at least a portion of the retrieval assembly extends from
11 the distal end of the sheath and assumes a three-dimensional shape out of the lumen of the
12 sheath.
- 1 2. The medical instrument of claim 1 wherein the retrieval assembly further
2 comprise a plurality of legs.
- 1 3. The medical instrument of claim 2 wherein the retrieval assembly
2 comprises four legs.
- 1 4. The medical instrument of claim 2 wherein a leg further comprises a
2 proximal portion and a distal portion.
- 1 5. The medical instrument of claim 4 wherein the leg comprises a joint for
2 connecting the proximal portion and the distal portion of the leg.
- 1 6. The medical instrument of claim 5 wherein the joint comprises a loop.
- 1 7. The medical instrument of claim 5 wherein the joint comprises a hook.
- 1 8. The medical instrument of claim 5 wherein the joint comprises a crimp.
- 1 9. The medical instrument of claim 1 wherein the second material is more
2 flexible than the first material.

1 10. The medical instrument of claim 1 wherein the distal portion of the
2 retrieval assembly is more flexible than the proximal portion of the retrieval assembly.

1 11. The medical instrument of claim 2 wherein the proximal portion of the leg
2 comprises a first material and the distal portion of the leg comprises a second material.

1 12. The medical instrument of claim 11 wherein the second material is more
2 flexible than the first material.

1 13. The medical instrument of claim 4 wherein the proximal portion of the
2 retrieval assembly comprises legs wherein the proximal leg portion is straight and the
3 distal leg portion is bulbous.

1 14. The medical instrument of claim 4 wherein the proximal leg portion is
2 bulbous and the distal leg portion is bulbous.

1 15. The medical instrument of claim 1 wherein the sheath is moveable.

1 16. The medical instrument of claim 1 further comprising an elongated
2 member operably attached to a proximal end of the retrieval assembly for moving the
3 retrieval assembly relative to the sheath.

1 17. A method for retrieving material in a body comprising the steps of:
2 inserting a medical instrument into a body, the medical instrument including
3 a proximal handle;
4 a sheath extending from the handle and including a lumen, the sheath
5 including a distal end away from the handle;

6 a retrieval assembly comprising a proximal portion and a distal portion,
7 the proximal portion comprising a first material, the distal portion comprising a second
8 material that is different than the first material, the retrieval assembly and the sheath
9 moveable relative to each other to achieve a collapsed position of the retrieval assembly
10 in which the retrieval assembly is within the lumen of the sheath and another position of
11 the retrieval assembly in which at least a portion of the retrieval assembly extends from

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- 12 the distal end of the sheath and assumes a three-dimensional shape out of the lumen of the
- 13 sheath;
- 14 capturing material in the retrieval assembly; and
- 15 withdrawing the retrieval assembly with the captured material from the body.

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